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To

F. Williamson, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Hon'ble
the Resident in Mysore,
Bangalore.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. C 2303/539 dated the 3rd January 1923 on the subject of charges debitable to the Bangalore Assigned Tract Revenues. It is stated in this communication that the Inchcape Committee have suggested that, in view of the expansion of the surplus and the increase of work in the Residency office in connection with the administration of the Tract, a larger proportion of the available funds should be utilised for meeting Imperial expenditure on the Residency Office and establishments. In pursuance of this proposal, it is also suggested that 7/8ths instead of 1/3rd of the pay of the Residency Surgeon and his establishment would be a fair proportion to be borne by the pro forma account of the Tract. In the first place, the Government of Mysore would observe that the share of Residency charges to be borne by the Tract has not had and should not have any relation to the size of the annual surpluses. The existing arrangement is based upon the decision arrived at in 1912,

when the proportion of charges to be paid by the several parties was fixed with reference to the share of attention devoted by the Residency and the connected establishments to the work relating to the Tract, Coorg and the Residency proper. The Mysore Government represented in para 9 of the Memorandum forwarded with Sir M. Visvesvaraya's D.O. No. 2457 dated 21st June 1911 to Col. Sir Hugh Daly that no share of the Residency charges should, for the reasons urged, be debited to the pro forma account of the Station at all. The Government of India, however, considered that 1/3rd of these charges should be borne by the account; vide para 3 of Mr. Warburton's letter No. 4076 dated 17th July 1912. The conditions which determined the assessment of the shares to be borne by the different accounts have not altered since, and the Government of Mysore are not, therefore, able to understand why a larger share than obtains at present should be debited to the pro forma account of the Tract. It would be a new principle altogether to require the Tract to bear a larger fraction simply because of the fact that the surpluses have been larger for some time past. The adoption of this principle would mean that the Imperial Government would be relieved of their proper share of the charges as already defined, and such an arrangement would be inconsis-

tent with the assurance so clearly conveyed in para 4 of the same letter of Mr. Warburton that the Government of India had no intention of benefiting the Imperial Exchequer at the cost of the revenues of the Bangalore Assigned Tract.

The second reason urged in support of the proposal is that there is increase of work in the Residency office in connection with the administration of the Tract. It is not clear how it has been ~~taken~~ concluded that the increase of work in the Residency is in connection with the administration of the Tract alone. What is more probable is that there has been an increase of work in this Office, as in the case of all Government Offices ~~in general~~ and the excess expenditure has to be borne by all the parties concerned. To impose on the Tract a larger proportion of the increased charges of this Office, and the connected establishments would be to relieve pro tanto the other parties of their share of charges, an arrangement which cannot be held to be either fair or reasonable. In these circumstances, the Government of Mysore consider that there is no occasion for re-opening the general question under discussion, which was decided after a prolonged controversy and correspondence.

2. As regards the specific proposal in regard to the pay of the Residency Surgeon and his establishment, I am to invite attention to the fact that the whole of this charge used to be debited to the pro forma account

of the Residency and not to that of the Tract at all: vide footnote on the expenditure statement of the pro forma accounts forwarded with Col. Sir Hugh Daly's D.O. No. 7193 dated 28th November 1910 to the Dewan. In para 5 of the Memorandum already referred to, the Government of Mysore urged reasons for not departing from this arrangement, but the Government of India considered that 1/3rd of these charges also should be debited to the accout of the Tract in the same way as charges relating to the Residency: vide para 2 of Mr. Warhurton's letter dated 17th July 1912. The present position in regard to the share of attention of the Residency Surgeon devoted to the medical administration of the Tract is apparently the same as in 1912, and any increase in the share of this charge to be borne by the Station account would be open to the objections urged above in regard to the Residency charges in general.

In conclusion, the Mysore Government would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India an important question of principle involved in this reference, namely how far the Inchcape Committee is really competent to make suggestions in a matter like the Surplus Revenues of the Assigned Tract, which is essentially a political one affecting a settlement arrived at after mature consideration between the Government of India and the Durbar. An outside body like this Committee which cannot be aware of the previous history

or all the facts of the case, ~~nor~~ of the commitments made by the parties concerned, should not, be allowed to the Durbar venture to think, have any voice in regard to such a question. Indeed, the Mysore Government feel that they cannot be expected to subject themselves to the jurisdiction of this Committee even in matters of India in which the Government may, as in this particular instance, ~~under discussion~~, be financially interested. They can only be asked to consider suggestions emanating from the Government of India as represented by the administration Political Department, which is controlled by His Excellency the Viceroy himself.

The Mysore Government venture, therefore, to express the hope that this aspect of the question will receive due consideration at the hands of the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Financial Secretary
to Government.